

COMPLETE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A top sheet including a number of perforations for covering a liquid-receiving surface of an absorbent article, wherein;

the top sheet is formed of a thermoplastic resin containing a particulate material,
and

the top sheet is provided with fine convex portions defined by exposing a part of the particulate material on a body facing surface of the top sheet and a plurality of protrusions extending from the body facing surface, and the height of each protrusion from the body facing surface is larger than that of each fine convex portion therefrom.

2. (Amended) The top sheet as set forth in claim 1, wherein the particulate material has a mean particle size in a range between 0.1 μm and 30 μm .

3. (Amended) The top sheet as set forth in claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic resin contains at least two different sizes of particulate materials that differ from each other in the mean particle size by at least 9 μm .

4. (Amended) The top sheet as set forth in claim 3, wherein the amount of the particulate material is in a range between 20 and 150 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic resin.

5. (Amended) The top sheet as set forth in claim 1, wherein the mean height of the protrusions from the surface of the top sheet is in a range between 0.05 and 1.0 mm.

6. The top sheet as set forth in claim 1, which further includes micropores that allow water vapor to pass therethrough.

7. The top sheet as set forth in claim 1, wherein the protrusions are formed by mechanically stretching the top sheet.

8. A method for producing a top sheet for absorbent article, comprising;

a) a step of mixing from 20 to 150 parts by weight of a particulate material with 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic resin, followed by melt-extruding the resulting mixture to form a sheet material, and

b) a step of placing the sheet material on the surface of a perforating member, followed by vacuuming the sheet material through perforating holes of the perforation member to perforate the sheet material.

9. The method for producing a top sheet as set forth in claim 8, which further comprises, before the step (b), a step (c) of partially stretching the sheet material by use of needles to form a number of protrusions.

10. The top sheet as set forth in claim 1, wherein the particulate material is made of inorganic particles of at least one type selected from a group consisting of titanium oxide, calcium carbonate, soda ash, gypsum, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, sodium sulfate, magnesium carbonate, magnesium sulfate, clay, calcium phosphate, silicic anhydride, carbon and talc.

11. A top sheet including a number of perforations for covering a liquid-receiving surface of an absorbent article, wherein;

the top sheet is formed of a thermoplastic resin containing a particulate material of inorganic particles, and

the top sheet includes fine convex portions of the particulate material partially exposed on a body facing surface of the top sheet and a plurality of protrusions extending from the body facing surface, and the height of each protrusion from the body facing surface is larger than that of each fine convex portion therefrom.

12. A top sheet including a number of perforations for covering a liquid-receiving surface of an absorbent article, wherein;

the top sheet is formed of a thermoplastic resin containing a particulate material, and

the top sheet includes micropores formed around the particulate material, fine convex portions of the particulate material on a body facing surface of the top sheet, a plurality of protrusions extending from the body facing surface, and the height of each protrusion from the body facing surface is larger than that of each fine convex portion therefrom.